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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, change and decay encompass us, but You alone are changeless. Transform us by the renewing of our minds so that we may do Your work. Set our affection on eternal things to enable us to keep life's vicissitudes in their proper perspective. Give us the grace to find the time to reflect on Your wisdom and to discover Your plans.

Deliver our lawmakers from reflex conformity that aborts Your providence. Teach them to decide based on enduring principles that have stood the test of time. Renew their strength and give them vigor for life's emergencies and patience for the sometimes pedestrian monotony of daily labors. Reveal to us life areas that need Your touch. Illuminate all of our paths that we may walk in Your truth.

We pray this in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWBACK led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SAM BROWBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWBACK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Today the first 30 minutes of morning business will be under the control of the minority, to be followed by 30 minutes under the control of this side of the aisle. Following this morning business period, the Senate will resume consideration of the Defense authorization bill. The agreement reached last night allows for 30 additional minutes of debate prior to a vote in relation to the amendment of Senator DODD relating to the use of contractors and the custody of prisoners. Therefore, that vote can be expected shortly after 10:30 this morning.

Last night, Senators WARNER and LEVIN began working through a list of amendments and potential time agreements. Real progress was made. We will continue those discussions this morning to see which amendments both sides are prepared to vote on over the course of today. I hope we can have another productive day today and dispose of a number of these defense-related amendments prior to this evening's commitment.

Having said that, we are coming to the close of our third week of consider-

ation of this bill. We have had somewhere around 78 amendments offered, and we have disposed of 74 of those 78 amendments. I do appreciate the effort of my Democratic colleagues to facilitate moving toward closure on this bill. I know they, working with Chairman WARNER, are doing everything possible to narrow the list of remaining amendments. Both sides are working hard in that regard. They must continue to do that because we have a number of amendments still before us.

I have not ruled out filing cloture on this Defense bill if it becomes necessary, just from a management perspective. Obviously, it would be easier if we could see an end point to the amendments and know that we can complete this bill in a short timeframe. So, again, I encourage everyone to show restraint in the amendment process. Over the course of the day, the leadership on both sides will monitor the course of the bill.

We will likely revisit our situation on the bill later today and see if there is an end point that is near, something to which we can agree. If not, then cloture may be necessary to bring the bill to conclusion.

As a reminder, we will stack judicial nominations for votes throughout the day as well. As always, Members will be alerted as these votes are set.

VISIT TO IRAQ

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have a few remarks on leader time that have to do with a discussion I began on Monday, and that is a followup on a trip about 12 days ago to Iraq. Again, we awoke today to increased terrorist activity in Iraq, with assassination and with sabotage of the oil supply lines there. I am saddened by the fact we see this terrorist activity, but I will have

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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